

spp. Another favoured site was the disused rubbish tip near the Police Academy, which also had beds of wild oats, and the birds utilised the Pampas Grass *Cortadiera selloaria*, for perching and shelter.

I have seen this species feeding here on the seeds of wild oats, veldt grasses, Winter Grass *Poa annua* and the Barnyard Grass *Echinochloa crus-galli*. The birds are always very active, continually moving and feeding hurriedly, and one gets the impression that they are always hungry. Tom Delaney has observed the species in wild oats at West Belmont about two kilometres from the Maylands sites.

- R. H. STRANGER, 28/76 East Street, Maylands, W.A. 6051.

Red-capped Parrot feeding on leafminers - On 26 October 1990 I saw a Red-capped Parrot feeding in a Flooded Gum *Eucalyptus rudis* on Culeenup Island, Yunderup. The foliage was heavily infested with and damaged by leafminers *Perthida glyphpa*. The tree had neither flowers nor seeds. For about ten minutes the parrot worked leaves through its beak to extract the larvae of the tiny moths from under the cuticle. Some of the leaves were afterwards found on the ground showing signs of that activity. Most literature cites this species as a seed-eater although *The Readers Digest Book of Australian Birds* mentions the probability of insect eating. A case of Ring-necked Parrots feeding on lerp insects (Psillidae) is reported in the *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 76.

- O. MUELLER, 7 Hamer Avenue, Wembley Downs, 6019.

A Southern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialoides*) and a Blue Petrel (*Halobaena caerulea*) found dead on Rottneest Island - A predominantly silvery-grey, medium sized tube-nosed seabird was found on the beach at Salmon Bay near Fairbridge Bluff, Rottneest on 6 October 1991. The specimen was in fairly good condition and had been dead for only a day or two. The flesh coloured black-tipped bill with steel-blue nostrils together with white underparts suggested it to be a Southern Fulmar. The black trailing edge to the secondaries and a slight white window on the primaries strengthened the identification.

Two days previously was unusually wet and windy which may have contributed to the death of the Fulmar, the second record for Rottneest. The first record (December 1954) was also on Salmon Bay, but west of my locality when a mummified beach-drifted specimen was found (E. McCrum and P. Slater 1955 *West. Aust. Nat.* 8: 192).

An almost entirely decomposed small petrel was pulled from the sand by Matthew Ryder (aged 7 years) at the eastern end of Salmon Bay on 9 October 1991. The unidentified remains were left on the beach but retrieved by Shendelle Surplice and the author the following day when it was considered that even this skeleton may have been an interesting find. It happened to be a Blue Petrel, a first

for Rottnest (R. E. Johnstone pers. com.) and was identified by Johnstone. Johnstone also confirmed the identification of the Southern Fulmar and that it was the second record for Rottnest.

Thanks go to Ian Wilkinson for his comments on the draft on this item and to Ron Johnstone for his identification and comment on the status of the species.

- PETER COYLE, 6 Owens Court, Belmont 6104.

Re-discovery of *Tetraria australiensis* C. B. Clarke (Cyperaceae) -
This species of sedge was known from two collections: Cannington, R. Helms, 1898, and the Serpentine River, Diels and Pritzel, 1901. The species was described from the latter collection in 1904, but has not been collected subsequently and is listed as presumed extinct.

In January 1993 while undertaking surveys for the Urban Environmental Audit I re-discovered this species east of Mundijong in an area of remnant bushland.

In this area *Tetraria australiensis* occurs under low open Marri woodland, over low shrubs and herbs. The species grows in grey sand over clay, in winter wet slopes and flats edging ephemeral swamps. Over 1,000 plants were located in the area.

There appear to be four reasons why *Tetraria australiensis* has remained lost, it flowers in early summer, it is a sedge which has small, insignificant wind pollinated flowers and is poorly collected, it grows with another sedge *Cyathochaeta avenacea*, which is superficially similar and co-flowers with *Tetraria* and finally the species only flowers after fires.

This species is automatically declared rare under the Wildlife Conservation Act.

- G. J. KEIGHERY, WA Wildlife Research Centre, Dept. of Conservation and Land Management, P.O. Box 51, Wanneroo 6065.